



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: June 2, 2010

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – June 2010

Tolls Increase July 1

The Bay Area Toll Authority has approved a toll increase on the seven state-owned Bay Area bridges that will take effect July 1, 2010. The new toll schedule is designed to generate an additional \$165 million a year, much of which will go toward the seismic retrofitting of the 27-year-old Dumbarton Bridge and the 31-year-old Antioch Bridge, the last two state spans in the region to undergo strengthening to bring them up to modern earthquake safety standards. Funds also will be used to help offset the increased cost of debt financing resulting from the financial market troubles that began in 2007, and to counter revenue losses caused by a decline in toll-paying traffic on the bridges since fiscal year 2003-04.

The toll changes are as follows:

- The two-axle toll rate will increase from \$4 to \$5 on most of the seven state-owned toll bridges in the Bay Area;
- An additional \$1.00 will be charged during weekday peak periods on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge;
- Carpools will be charged a discounted toll rate of \$2.50; and
- Carpool vehicles will be required to have a FasTrak[®] toll tag and to use a designated carpool lane to receive the toll discount.

For more information on the toll changes, visit <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/tolls/>.

TransLink[®] to Change its Name to Clipper

On June 16th, TransLink[®] gets a fresh new look and becomes Clipper. The new Clipper cards will be available at all retailers that currently offer TransLink[®] cards. Clipper will work exactly the same way that TransLink[®] does today, and customers who wish to continue using their TransLink[®] cards can do so. For more information on the name change, go to <https://www.translink.org/TranslinkWeb/aboutClipper.do>.

Climate Initiatives Program Update

In December 2009, MTC approved \$80 million for the Climate Initiatives Program, an effort that will be implemented in conjunction with the Air District, ABAG and BCDC. Within the past month, MTC has released three elements of the program to the public:

1. **Innovative and Safe Routes to Schools Creative Grants:** MTC issued a single solicitation for two regionally competitive grant programs focusing on innovative strategies for reducing GHG emissions and school-related emission reductions. MTC, on behalf of the regional agencies, will administer these grant programs. A total of up to \$33 million in grant funding is available on a competitive basis to assist public agencies, businesses and community organizations implement innovative transportation-related GHG emission reduction strategies. MTC is slated to award grants in September 2010.
2. **Public Outreach Program:** MTC released a \$7.5 million Request for Qualifications to create a regionwide campaign to reduce GHG emissions. MTC intends to contract with one or more selected consultants to help develop and implement a public education and behavior change campaign, including developing tools that the public can use to reduce their transportation-related GHG emissions. MTC will be asked to approve a list of contractors in July 2010.
3. **Program Evaluation:** Last month, MTC issued a \$2 million Request for Proposals for a program evaluation consultant. The selected consultant will evaluate the Climate Initiatives Program to determine the effectiveness of the program on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Program components subject to the evaluation include the public outreach and education program, Safe Routes to School Program (which includes the county programs and Creative Grants), and the Innovative Grants. MTC will conduct the evaluation starting in 2011 and complete it by 2014.

Mobile 511 Launched Earlier This Year

511 Mobile is a new website customized for mobile devices that provides access to streamlined versions of the 511 Transit Trip Planner, the 511 Traffic Map and the Popular 511 Driving Times. The mobile website can be accessed at m.511.org from a mobile device (i.e., iPhone, BlackBerry or other smart phone with browsing capabilities). Other 511 features, such as real-time transit departure times and transit schedules, will be added in the future. Helpful tips and suggestions are available in a FAQ on both the regular 511.org site and the mobile site.

511 Mobile covers the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. 511 does not charge for using 511 Mobile services, though you may need a phone plan that includes Web browsing. 511 reminds drivers to take precautions and stay safe while driving – use 511 Mobile before you're on the road or have a passenger check current conditions for you.

The region's 511 system was launched – on the phone and on the Web – by MTC in 2002. The San Francisco Bay Area was the first region in California – and at the time the largest metropolitan area in the country – to activate a 511 traveler information system. The service now generates more than 450,000 calls and about 2.5 million Web visits each month.

Bay Area “Self-Help” Counties

At your last meeting, a request was made for information regarding the “self-help” counties. All Bay Area counties except for Napa and Solano have passed sales taxes dedicated to transportation. The rates vary by county as a number of counties have more than one 0.5% sales tax for transportation. The table below lists the Bay Area counties and transportation districts that have voter-approved sales taxes, along with details about the revenue estimated for FY 2010 (based on MTC's long-range plan) and the expiration date, if any.

Transportation Sales Taxes in the San Francisco Bay Area
(Dollars Shown in \$1,000s)

Jurisdiction	Sales Tax Rate	Sunset Date	FY 2009-10 Estimate
AB 1107 – BART (Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco)	0.5	Permanent	286,570
Alameda County	0.5	2022	127,926
Contra Costa County	0.5	2034	83,688
Marin County	0.5	2025	20,800
San Francisco	0.5	2033	86,269
San Mateo County – Transit	0.5	Permanent	73,825
San Mateo County – Multimodal	0.5	2034	73,825
Santa Clara County – Transit	0.5	Permanent	162,654
Santa Clara County – Multimodal	0.5	2036	165,183
Santa Clara County	0.125	2038	Effective FY 2013
Sonoma County	0.25	2025	20,596
Sonoma-Marín Rail Transit	0.25	2029	31,305

MTC High School Internship Program

MTC’s tenth annual summer high school internship program – which was begun at the request of the former Minority Citizens Advisory Committee – will get underway in just a few weeks with its opening orientation on June 21. For more information on the program visit http://www.mtc.ca.gov/jobs/high_school/.

If you wish to attend the opening orientation, please let me know (pgrove@mtc.ca.gov).